GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:406
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
CONVERSION OF LAND INTO FOREST LAND
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any plan to convert one third land area of the country into forest area with a view to maintaining ecological balance;

(b) if so, the areas identified in each State particularly in Maharashtra for the purpose and the acres of land available for afforestation , State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to invite Voluntary and Non Governmental Organisations in afforestation programmes in the States;

(d) if so, the detail thereof;

(e) the States in which forest area has reduced during the last three years; and

(f) the amount of help provided to such States during the said period?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), & (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.406 FOR 18-12-2000 REGARDING CONVERSION OF LAND INTO FOREST LAND.

(a) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has formulated National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP), a comprehensive strategic long term plan for the next twenty years to bring one third of the area of the country under forest/tree cover to arrest de-forestation for achieving sustainable development of forests and to maintain ecological balance.

(b) The Programme aims at sustainable development of 76.5 million hectares of forests covering 16 major forest types extending over 26 States and Union Territories. The area to be regenerated/planted is 48.23 million hectares. In Maharashtra 3.36 million hectares have been identified for regeneration/afforestation.

The areas identified in each State for afforestation / regeneration, State-wise:

State /UT	Area to be regenerated (in million ha.)	Area to be afforested (in million ha.)	Total area regenerated/ afforested (in million ha.)	Total area be afforested (in million ha.)
Andhra Pradesh	2.65	2.28	4.93	12.20
Arunachal Pradesh	0.10	0.05	0.15	0.37
Assam	0.92	0.18	1.10	2.72
Bihar	1.50	2.71	4.21	10.42
Goa	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.07
Gujarat	0.74	1.88	2.62	6.48
Haryana	0.17	0.70	0.87	2.16
Himachal Pradesh	0.49	0.41	0.90	2.23
Jammu & Kashmir	2.05	4.22	6.27	15.52
Karnataka	3.09	0.12	3.21	7.95
Kerala	0.14	0.12	0.26	0.64
Madhya Pradesh	6.01	1.38	7.39	18.29
Maharashtra	2.68	0.68	3.36	8.32
Manipur	0.77	0.31	1.08	2.67
Meghalaya	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
Mizoram	0.60	0.02	0.62	1.53

Nagaland	N.A	N.A	N.A	N.A
Orissa	0.16	0.28	0.44	1.09
Punjab	0.31	0.35	0.66	1.63
Rajasthan	0.80	4.34	5.14	12.72
Sikkim	0.20	0.08	0.28	0.69
Tamilnadu	0.33	0.38	0.71	1.76
Tripura	0.04	0.04	0.08	0.20
Uttar Pradesh	2.28	0.96	3.24	8.02
West Bengal	0.30	0.31	0.61	1.51
A&N Islands	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.17
Total	26.43	21.80	48.23	119.36

(c) & (d) The Government encourages the participation of Voluntary and Non-Governmental Organisations in afforestation programmes in the States. The Ministry of Environment and Forests operatesa Grants-in-Aid Scheme to Voluntary Agencies under which financial assistance is provided to Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for development of wastelandsadjoining forest areas through afforestation and soil moisture conservation measures.

(e) As per the State of Forest Report-1999, nine States i.e. Assam, Bihar, Goa, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and two Union Territories i.e. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Dadra & Nagar Haveli have shown loss in forest cover.

(f) The amount of central assistance provided by the Ministry to those 11 States/UTs for afforestation during the last three years is as below:

State / UT	Central assistance provided during last three years (1997-98 to 1999-2000) (Rs. in lakhs)
Assam	493.33
Bihar	597.44
Goa	71.57
Kerala	979.21
Manipur	1364.09
Meghalaya	27.69
Mizoram	1071.80
Nagaland	83.72
Sikkim	818.46
Andaman&Nicobar Islands	17.35
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.07
Total	5524.73